



## LOGGERHEADLINES

Sea Turtle News

From

South Carolina

October- November 1998

### *Greetings*

Even though we told you that the previous newsletter was the final issue for the year, we wanted to let you know about several new items of interest.

### Strandings

The strandings this month were the third highest for October since the beginning of the stranding network, and probably were a result the very mild weather keeping water temperatures high. Twelve loggerheads, one green, and one Kemp's ridley washed ashore dead; the most strandings for October in eight years.

November has seen a decrease with one loggerhead and one green stranding. In addition to these two, the hopper dredge at Myrtle Beach killed a loggerhead this month.

### Nesting

Most leaders of the nest protection projects have turned in their

final reports for the season. Thank you for including the Outline and the Nesting Season Summary with your written reports. If you have any questions about how to arrange your report, or what to include, please don't hesitate to contact Charlotte or Meg.

### Research

For those of you without access to the Internet, here is a short update on what the turtles with satellite transmitters have been doing.

The turtle called "No Name" now has a name. The winning entry, "Caroline", was suggested by six students and/or classes in South Carolina.

The three turtles that traveled south have remained in the same locations off the coast of Florida near Amelia Island, Flagler Beach and Vero Beach. The two that went north, "Virginia" and Jackie" have moved south again as water temperatures in their locations dropped. Although Jackie's transmitter is not functioning well, her occasional signals have followed a pattern similar to that of Virginia.

Both are staying in the warm waters at the western edge of the Gulf Stream. The last location on Jackie was northeast of Cape Fear, North Carolina. Virginia continued south and on November 29<sup>th</sup>, she was 75 miles due east of Charleston.

## Management Action

The Sargassum harvest will be an agenda item at the next South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council meeting. The meeting starts on November 30 and the vote will be taken on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This issue effects sea turtles since hatchlings and immature turtles take refuge in the floating Sargassum seaweed during their trans-Atlantic journey. In addition to sea turtles, over 100 varieties of finfish are associated with the Sargassum community. The Sargassum is harvested and used as a food supplement for turkeys.

If you would like to fax the meeting room with your comments, the number is 252-441-1830.

Once again, thank you for all your hard work this past season and this really is the last *Loggerheadlines* for this year.

Equal opportunity agency

